

FISCAL NOTE

SB 533 - HB 1892

April 19, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes the independent practice of physical therapists and no longer requires the referral of physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, or osteopathic physicians.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

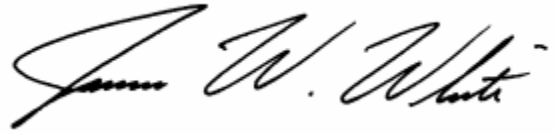
Potential Impact on Health Insurance Premiums (required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-2-111): Such legislation could result in a not significant increase on the cost of health insurance premiums.

Assumptions:

- The Department of Health could have an increase in investigations and disciplinary activity which would not be a significant increase in expenditures. Such would be through the health related boards which are fee supported.
- The utilization of physical therapists could increase by not being under a referral of a physician which could result in an increase in health care costs.
- TennCare will continue to require enrollees be referred to specialists, which includes a physical therapist, by a primary care physician for purposes of reimbursement.
- The proposed change would not affect the coverage of physical therapy by private health insurance. Private health plans can still require referrals and would not have to provide coverage for physical therapists not within the network of health care providers.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director